



# WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION CHAPTER 2 - 2015 GENERAL HUNTING REGULATION



**Section 1. Authority.** This regulation is promulgated by authority of W.S. § 23-1-103, § 23-1-302, § 23-1-703, § 23-2-101, § 23-2-106, § 23-3-104, § 23-3-111, § 23-3-304, § 23-3-305, § 23-3-306 and § 23-3-308.

**Section 2. Definitions.** For the purpose of all hunting and trapping regulations, definitions shall be as set forth in Title 23, Wyoming Statutes, Commission regulations and the Commission also adopts the following definitions:

(a) **“Accompanied by a Mentor”** means being directly supervised at all times by a mentor who is within sight and direct voice contact.

(b) **“Aircraft”** means any machine or device (including but not limited to airplane, helicopter, glider, dirigible or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)) capable at atmospheric flight.

(c) **“Antlered”** means a deer, elk, or moose that has visible antler growth plainly protruding from the skull. Where a minimum number of antler points are specified, points shall be counted on the side with the greater number of points.

(d) **“Antlerless”** means a deer, elk, or moose that has no antler growth plainly protruding from the skull. Females and young-of-the-year without visible antlers are antlerless big game animals.

(e) **“Approved Landfill”** means a municipal or county landfill permitted by the State of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Solid Waste Rules and Regulations, Chapter 2 revised as of October 15, 1998, which does not include any later amendments or additions of the incorporated matter. A copy of State of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Solid Waste Rules and Regulations can be viewed at any Department Regional Office or the Headquarters Office.

(f) **“Archery Equipment”** means crossbows, longbows, recurve bows, compound bows and arrows.

(g) **“Artificial Light or Lighting Device”** means any man-made light or lighting device which projects a light visible to the unaided eye outside of the device, or any battery-powered device that provides an enhanced ability to see in the dark.

(h) **“Bag Limit”** means the maximum number of big game or trophy game animals that may be taken by an individual possessing a proper license.

(i) **“Buck Antelope”** means male antelope with visible horns and a dark cheek patch at the base of the ear.

(j) **“Bureau of Land Management (B.L.M.)”** means the land management agency administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

(k) **“Bureau of Reclamation land”** means lands administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation.

(l) **“Calf”** means young-of-the-year elk or young-of-the-year moose.

(m) **“Central Flyway”** means that portion of Wyoming east of the Continental Divide, excluding the Great Divide Basin.

(n) **“Certificate of Competency and Safety in the Use and Handling of Firearms”** means a certification issued for the completion of an approved hunter safety course.

(o) **“Cow”** means an adult female elk or an adult female moose.

(p) **“Daily Bag Limit”** means the maximum number of game birds, migratory game birds, waterfowl or small game animals that may be legally taken in a single day.

(q) **“Dark Geese”** means Canada goose, cackling goose, white-fronted goose and brant.

(r) **“Doe”** means an adult female antelope or adult female deer.

(s) **“Drainage”** means all lands within the watershed of a named river or stream, including all tributaries and standing waters, which drain into that river or stream.

(t) **“Edible portion of big game animal”** means the meat of the front quarters as far down as the knees, meat of the hindquarters as far down as the hocks, and the meat along the backbone between the neck and hindquarters including the loins and tenderloins, excluding meat on the ribs and neck.

(u) **“Ewe”** means an adult female bighorn sheep.

(v) **“Fawn”** means young-of-the-year antelope or young-of-the-year deer.

(w) **“Federal Duck Stamp”** means Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.

(x) **“Handgun”** means a firearm that has a barrel length of less than sixteen (16) inches, has a short stock, and is designed to be fired by the use of a single hand without shoulder support.

(y) **“Hunt Area”** means the geographic boundaries within which a license shall be valid.

(z) **“Irrigated land”** means agricultural lands that are supplied with supplemental water by ditches, pipes, flooding or spraying.

(aa) **“Lamb”** means a young-of-the-year bighorn sheep.

(bb) **“Light Geese”** means snow goose, blue goose and Ross’ goose.

(cc) **“Mentee”** means a person who has received special authorization from the Department to take wildlife and who has not received a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms.

(dd) **“Mentor”** means a person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age, can demonstrate he has a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms, possesses a valid Wyoming hunting license and is directly supervising not more than one (1) mentee, other than immediate family members, at a time while in the field.

(ee) **“Motorized vehicle”** means any vehicle powered by an internal combustion or electric engine.

(ff) **“Muzzle-loading firearm”** means a muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle loading handgun of at least .40 caliber and using a lead or expanding point bullet using a charge of at least fifty (50) grains of black powder or its equivalent.

(gg) **“National Elk Refuge Permit”** means a permit that allows a properly licensed elk hunter to access the National Elk Refuge to take an elk.

(hh) **“Nontoxic Shot”** means steel or any federally-approved nontoxic shot.

(ii) **“Off National Forest”** means lands other than those administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

(jj) **“Off National Grasslands”** means lands other than the Thunder Basin National Grasslands and Bankhead-Jones lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

(kk) **“On National Forest”** means lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

(ll) **“Pacific Flyway”** means that portion of Wyoming west of the Continental Divide, including the Great Divide Basin.

(mm) **“Park Permit”** means a permit issued by Grand Teton National Park that allows a properly licensed elk hunter to take an elk within Grand Teton National Park.

(nn) **“Partridge”** means chukar partridge and gray partridge.

(oo) **“Point”** means any protrusion from an antler one (1) inch or more in length.

(pp) **“Possession Limit”** means the maximum number of game birds, waterfowl or small game animals that may be legally in possession. Wildlife in transit or storage shall be considered in possession. For migratory game birds, when a person hunts in more than one (1) state flyway or zone, the person’s total possession limit shall not exceed the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the states, flyways or zones in which the hunting takes place.

(qq) **“Private Land”** means all fee title/deeded lands owned by a private individual, partnership, or corporation.

(rr) **“Processor”** means a custom meat processor licensed by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

(ss) **“Public Road or Highway”** means any roadway that is open to vehicular travel by the public. The road surface, the area between the fences on a fenced public road or highway, and an area thirty (30) feet perpendicular to the edge of the road surface on an unfenced public road or highway shall be considered the public road or highway. Two-track trails on public lands are not public roads.

(tt) **“Ram”** means a male bighorn sheep that is one (1) year or older.

(uu) **“Regular Hunting Seasons”** mean seasons which delineate the dates and hunt areas for the taking of big game or trophy game animals with legal weapons in accordance with the license types and limitations as set forth in Section 2 of Chapters 5 (Antelope), 6 (Deer), 7 (Elk), 8 (Moose), Sections 3 and 7 of Chapter 9 (Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat), Section 10 of Chapter 3 (Black Bear) and Section 4 of Chapter 42 (Mountain Lion) of the Commission Regulations.

(vv) **“Season Limit”** means the maximum number of sandhill cranes or pheasants that may be legally taken during the entire season.

(ww) **“Site of the Kill”** means the location where the harvested animal died.

(xx) **“Special Archery Seasons”** mean seasons that delineate the dates and hunt areas for the taking of big game or trophy game animals with legal archery equipment, in which a hunter with the proper hunting license and an archery license may hunt in addition to the regular hunting seasons in accordance with the limitations as set forth in Section 3 of Chapters 5 (Antelope), 6 (Deer), 7 (Elk), 8 (Moose), Sections 4 and 8 of Chapter 9 (Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat) and Section 11 of Chapter 3 (Black Bear).

(yy) **“Spike Elk”** means an elk with antlers consisting of a single unbranched beam on both sides.

(zz) **“State Trust land”** means lands administered by the Office of State Land and Investments.

(aaa) **“Type”** means a limitation on a license in a particular hunt area for the sex of animal, the species of animal, the length of the season, the type of weapon or a portion of the hunt area in which the license shall be valid.

(bbb) **“Upland Game Birds”** means any sage grouse, blue grouse, ruffed grouse, partridge, sharp-tailed grouse or pheasant.

(ccc) **“Waste”** means to leave, abandon or allow any edible portion of meat from a big game animal, game bird, game fish or small game animal to become tainted, rotten or otherwise unfit for human consumption prior to processing at a person’s home or at a processor.

(ddd) **“Waterfowl”** means ducks, geese, coots and mergansers.

**Section 3. Bag Limits and Numbers of Licenses.** No person shall apply for or receive more than one (1) license for each big game species during any one (1) calendar year, except as otherwise provided in Commission Regulations. The maximum bag limit for big game animals and trophy game animals for any person with the proper licenses and permits shall not exceed the following number of animals: one (1) elk per license; one (1) moose per license; one (1) bighorn sheep per license; one (1) mountain goat per license; one (1) antelope per license; one (1) deer per license; one (1) black bear per license; one (1) mountain lion per license; one (1) gray wolf per license. Section 4 of this Chapter and Chapter 34, Depredation Prevention Hunting Seasons and other Commission regulations may provide for taking additional game animals with the proper licenses.

**Section 4. Issuance of Deer and Antelope Limited Quota Licenses, Reduced Price Doe/Fawn Licenses, Elk Limited Quota Licenses, and Reduced Price Cow/Calf Licenses.**

(a) For deer, no person shall apply for and receive more than one (1) full price deer license (General, Type 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 9) through the initial drawing. After the initial drawing is completed, any person may apply for and receive up to two (2) full price deer licenses provided that at least one (1) license is a Limited

Quota Type 3 any white-tailed deer license. However, no person shall apply for and receive more than a total of two (2) deer licenses valid for the taking of antlered or any deer, of which not more than one (1) shall be valid for antlered or any mule deer.

(b) For deer, any person may apply for and receive a maximum of two (2) limited quota reduced price doe/fawn deer licenses (Type 6, 7 or 8) through the initial drawing. After the initial drawing is completed, any person may purchase up to four (4) limited quota reduced price doe/fawn deer licenses. However, no person shall apply for and receive more than a total of four (4) limited quota reduced price doe/fawn deer licenses. In Hunt Areas 24, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33 or 163 after the initial drawing is completed, any person may purchase an unlimited number of limited quota reduced price doe/fawn deer licenses.

(c) For antelope, no person shall apply for and receive more than one (1) full price antelope license (Type 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 9) through the initial drawing. After the initial drawing is completed, any person may apply for and receive up to two (2) full price antelope licenses. However, no person shall apply for and receive more than a total of two (2) full price antelope licenses.

(d) For antelope, any person may apply for and receive a maximum of two (2) limited quota reduced price doe/fawn antelope licenses (Type 6, 7 or 8) through the initial drawing. After the initial drawing is completed, any person may purchase up to four (4) limited quota reduced price doe/fawn antelope licenses. However, no person shall apply for and receive more than a total of four (4) limited quota reduced price doe/fawn antelope licenses.

(e) For elk, any person may apply for and receive up to one (1) full price elk license (General, Type 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 9) and one (1) limited quota reduced price cow/calf elk license (Type 6, 7 or 8) through the initial drawing. After the initial drawing is completed, any person may purchase up to two (2) limited quota reduced price cow/calf elk licenses valid for any hunt area of the state. Any person may receive a third elk license provided that it is a reduced price cow/calf elk license and is issued for one of the following hunt areas: 3, 6-10, 12, 19, 21, 23, 33-35, 47-49, 61, 63, 64, 66, 69, 92-94, 96, 104, 106, 108, 111, 114, 116, 117, 120, 122, 125 or 129. However, no person shall apply for and receive more than a total of three (3) elk licenses in a single season.

(f) For bighorn sheep, any person may apply for and receive a maximum of one (1) limited quota full price bighorn sheep license (Type 1) and one (1) limited quota reduced price ewe/lamb license (Type 6).

(g) It is a violation to apply for and receive more than the specified number of licenses allowed by Commission regulations.

#### **Section 5. Open Hours for Taking Big Game, Small Game, Trophy Game, Upland Game Birds and Wild Turkey.**

(a) Big game, trophy game and small game animals may only be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.

(b) Except as otherwise provided, upland game birds and wild turkey may only be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset.

**Section 6. Retention of Evidence to Identify Sex, Species and Horn or Antler Development of Big Game Animal Harvested.** Any person who takes any big game animal in a hunt area where the taking of either sex, species, or antler or horn development is controlled or prohibited by regulation shall comply with this section while said animal is in transportation from the site of the kill to the residence of the person taking the animal, or delivered to a processor for processing.

(a) In hunt areas where the taking of any big game animal is restricted to antler point or horn size by regulation, the antlers or horns shall accompany the carcass, or edible portions thereof.

(b) In hunt areas where the taking of any big game animal is restricted to a specific sex of animal by regulation, either the visible external sex organs, head or antlers shall accompany the carcass, or edible portions thereof.

(c) In hunt areas where the taking of a species of deer is controlled or prohibited by regulation, either the head or the tail of the deer shall accompany the animal, or edible portion thereof as evidence of the species taken.

#### **Section 7. Dating and Display of Game Animal/Wild Turkey/Sandhill Crane Carcass Coupons.**

(a) When dating a carcass coupon, the entire day and month of the kill shall be completely cut out and removed.

(b) The carcass coupon shall be signed, dated and attached to the carcass of any big game or wild turkey or the carcass or hide of any trophy game animal in such a manner as to be plainly visible before leaving the site of the kill. The carcass coupon shall be attached to the carcass of any sandhill crane taken in limited quota areas in such a manner as to be plainly visible. When the animal is in transportation, the carcass coupon may be carried by the person accompanying the carcass so that the coupon shall not be lost. While quarters or pieces of an animal are being packed from the field, the carcass coupon shall remain with the person transporting the animal.

(c) Subsections 7(a) and (b) shall be in addition to the requirements in W.S. § 23-3-104.

**Section 8. Emergency Closure.** Big game hunting seasons may be closed because of an emergency upon forty-eight (48) hours notice. Trophy game hunting seasons may be closed upon immediate notice.

**Section 9. Established Check Stations, Mandatory Reporting.** Every hunter, angler, or trapper of furbearing animals shall stop and report at every check station on route to or from the hunting, fishing or trapping area regardless if the person has wildlife in possession. Upon request of any authorized Department representative, anyone who has been hunting, fishing, or trapping shall produce a valid license and conservation stamp, if required and special management permit, if required, for game animals, game birds, furbearing animals or fish. Even if the game meat or fish in possession has been cut and wrapped or processed, the person transporting shall stop and report at the check station. Any person transporting wildlife harvested in another state or country shall stop at check stations on their route.

(a) Check stations shall be signed and established at a point on a highway or road clearly visible at a distance of not less than two hundred (200) yards in either direction.

(b) Check stations shall be at a point where flashing warning lights shall be visible to oncoming traffic for a distance of not less than two hundred (200) yards. The emergency warning lights on a marked law enforcement vehicle or a yellow flashing light on a marked Department non-enforcement vehicle shall be in operation.

(c) At least one (1) person working the check station shall be in Department uniform.

**Section 10. Placement of Name of Outfitter and Outfitter's License Number on Back of License.** Any big or trophy game hunter utilizing the services of an outfitter shall legibly print the name of the outfitter, the outfitter's license number and the type of outfitter license on the back of the licensee's big or trophy game license.

**Section 11. Archery Hunting.** No person shall hunt big game or trophy game animals with archery equipment during a special archery hunting season without first obtaining an archery license and the applicable hunting license. An archery license shall not be required in addition to a limited quota (Type 9) license to participate in a limited quota archery only season. Legal archery equipment and firearms may be used to hunt big game or trophy game animals during the regular hunting seasons as set forth in Commission regulations.

**Section 12. Use of Aircraft to Spot or Locate Wildlife.** No person shall use any aircraft to aid in the taking of any Wyoming wildlife, except predatory animals, whether by spotting or locating the wildlife, communicating with any person attempting to take the wildlife, or by providing other aid to any person taking the wildlife within twenty-four (24) hours of being airborne. Nothing in this Section shall apply to commercial, commuter or other aircraft used for the sole purpose of passenger transport.

#### **Section 13. Retrieval of Edible Portions of Game Meat from the Field.**

(a) The Department may require substantive proof from any person who fails to retrieve from the site of kill all edible portions of a big game animal as to why the edible portions were not removed from the field.

(b) Wounding and Retrieving. No person shall wound or kill any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it and reduce it to possession.

**Section 14. Baiting of Big Game Animals Prohibited Except by Qualified Persons.** Any legally blind person, person confined to a wheelchair, person hunting with a permit issued pursuant to W.S. § 23-3-304(d)(iv) or any person hunting with a license issued pursuant to W.S. §23-1-705 (j) may place a bait for big game or take a big game animal by the use of bait.

**Section 15. Transportation and Disposal of Deer, Elk and Moose Taken from Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Hunt Areas within Wyoming.** It shall be the purpose of this section to regulate the transportation and disposal of potentially CWD infected deer, elk and moose carcasses to areas outside of the hunt areas with CWD and potentially reduce the spread of the disease to other areas in and outside of Wyoming. Hunters may obtain current CWD information on the Department's website at <http://wgfd.wyo.gov>.

(a) No deer, elk or moose taken or possessed from any hunt area shall be transported to any other hunt area within Wyoming or to any other state, province or country except as provided in this section.

(b) Deer, elk and moose carcasses harvested from any hunt area in Wyoming may be transported within Wyoming to a camp, a private residence for processing, a taxidermist, a processor, or a CWD sample collection site in Wyoming, provided the head and all portions of the spinal column remain at the site of the kill or such parts are disposed of in any approved landfill in Wyoming.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, only the following parts of any deer, elk or moose harvested from any hunt area in Wyoming may be transported to any other hunt area in Wyoming: edible portions with no part of the spinal column or head attached; cleaned hide without the head; skull plate or antlers that have been cleaned of all meat and brain tissue; teeth; or finished taxidermy mounts.

(d) Only the following parts of any deer, elk or moose harvested from any hunt areas in Wyoming may be transported to other states, provinces or countries: edible portions with no part of the spinal column or head attached; cleaned hide without the head; skull plate or antlers that have been cleaned of all meat and brain tissue; teeth; or finished taxidermy mounts. Whole deer, elk and moose carcasses harvested from any area shall not be transported out of Wyoming.

(e) Nothing in this section shall allow for the removal of evidence of sex or species required by Section 6 of this regulation.

(f) Nothing in this section shall apply to the transportation or disposal of deer, elk and moose carcasses by any governmental agency or educational institution.

#### **Section 16. Importation or Transportation of Deer, Elk or Moose Taken From Identified CWD Areas Outside of Wyoming.**

(a) No deer, elk or moose taken from within any other state, province or country within areas designated by the appropriate jurisdictional agency as positive for CWD in either deer, elk or moose shall be imported into Wyoming except harvested deer, elk or moose carcasses may be imported or transported into Wyoming to a private residence for processing, to a taxidermist, to a processor or to a CWD sample collection site in Wyoming provided the head and all portions of the spinal column are disposed of in an approved landfill.

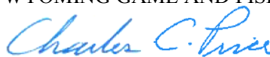
(b) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this Section, only the following parts of any deer, elk or moose harvested may be imported: edible portions with no part of the spinal column or head attached; cleaned hide without the head; skull plate or antlers cleaned of all meat and brain tissue; teeth; or finished taxidermy mounts that have been cleaned of all meat and brain tissue.

#### **Section 17. Hunter Mentor Program.**

(a) Any person born on or after January 1, 1966, who has not received a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms may apply to the Department for a special authorization to take wildlife with the use of a firearm while being accompanied by a mentor. A special authorization issued to an individual shall be in the possession of the recipient at all times while in the field. The applicant shall apply on the Department's website at <http://wgfd.wyo.gov>.

(b) Any person acting as a mentor to a mentee with a special authorization pursuant to this section shall accompany the mentee at all times to provide constant supervision.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

By:   
Charles C. Price, President

Dated: April 22, 2015